THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No death of livestock due to starvation has been reported by the State Governments. However, livestock have died due to old-age, malnutrition, diseases and other causes in drought-affected States. Such deaths were: Rajasthan—68,887; Gujarat—39,647; Maharashtra—4,854 and Kerala—26. Other States have not reported such deaths.

(b) No assistance is provided for replacement of livestock under drought relief programme. However, financial help is available for purchasing fresh stock under Plan programme like Integrated Rural Development Programme, Special Livestock Breeding Programme, etc.

(c) In the wake of drought 1987-88, the Central Government sanctioned financial grants for cattle conservation and fodder production to various drought-affected States. The State of Tamil Nadu was granted Rs. 87.50 lakhs for fodder production under a Contingency Plan, through which 19,978 small and marginal farmers were benefited.

सांसदों को कार्यालय के लिये स्थान तथा अन्य सुविधाओं का दिया जाना

1395. **श्री सत्यपाल मलिक** : क्या **संसदीय कार्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सांसदों को कार्यालय के लिए स्थान तथा कार्यालय सम्बन्धी अन्य सुविधाएं प्रदान करने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री ए च०के०एल० भगत) : (क) और (ख) संसद सदस्यों को विभिन्न सुविधाएं संसद सदस्य वेतन और भत्ता संबंधी संयुक्त समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर दी जाती हैं। संयुक्त समिति ने सदस्यों को भत्ते और कार्यालय सुविधाएं दिए जाने के सम्बन्ध में कुछ सिफारिशें की है। इन सिफारिशों पर कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

Telecast of Serial 'Amir Khusro'

1396. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the criticism of serial 'Ameir Khusro' on Doordarshan as it distorts history by supporting the invasion on Temple of Somnath and commenting on Aryans as invaders; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Government have received some letters alleging distrortion of facts in the serial 'Amir Khusro'. A petition was filed in the Court for restraining Doordarshan from telecast of this serial. But the Hon'ble Court dismissed the case. The telecast of the serial continues.

Check on Nutritional Values of Fast Foods

1397. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a fast food boon in India which has been triggered by Defence Food Research Laboratory as published in 'the Sunday Observer' 3—9 July, 1988;

(b) whether any check on nutritional values of many fast foods are being conducted as compared with the original value of food before processing and if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are also aware of invasion of Junk Foods with very poor and low nutritional value which have invaded the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Wheat from America

1398. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the import of one million tonnes of wheat from U.S., India would be paying a sum of Rs. 60 crores as shipping charges as against around Rs. 146 crores as the wheat price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'Patriot', of 11th June, 1988 under the caption "Leak of wheat import decision to cost India crores of ruppes extra";

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The estimated F.O.B. cost of one million tonnes of wheat (contracted in April, 1988) comes to about Rs. 146.32 crores and the total freight for this quantity would be Rs. 60 crores or thereabout, depending on freight levels that would prevail from time to time till despatch of the last ship.

(c) to (e) Government have seen the report referred to. Freight level depends upon various factors such as supply and demand, etc. which keep changing from time to time. Import of one million tonnes of wheat by India was contracted in April, 1988, whereas the international freight market started recovering towards end of 1987.

Prices of Vanaspati

1399. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspati manufacturers give any undertaking to Government regarding stability of the prices; if so, the details of prices agreed upon and prevailing;

(b) whether Vanaspati manufacturers are getting imported edible oil from the STC (State Trading Corporation) at uniform price to maintain uniformity of prices throughout the country;

(c) whether sales tax paid by Vanaspati manufacturers on the sale of the imported oil by the STC is reimbursed by Government agencies; and

(d) if so, the amount of reimbursed during the years 1985, 1986 & 1987 alongwith the details about state-wise reimbursement allocation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A voluntary price arrangement has been in effect from the 26th of August, 1987 on the basis of an assurance from the Vanaspati Manufacturers Association and the Indian Vanaspati Producers Association according to which the maximum consumer price of a 15 kg. tin of Vanaspati is Rs. 335/- plus local taxes.

(b) The current STC issue price for imported edible oils to the Vanaspati industry is Rs. 15,000 PMT for the regular allocations and Rs. 19,000/- PMT for the commercial allocations.

(c) STC reimburses sales tax to vanaspati units on the sale of imported oils subject to certain conditions-